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A
COMMISSION
OF
EXCISE,
FOR

Setting of Rates upon Wares and
COMMODITIES.



HARLES by the grace of God, King
of England, Scotland, France and Ire-
land, defendor of the Faith &c. To Our
trusty and wellbeloved

Whereas We have bin, and still are inforced to raise
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and maintain severall Armies for the defence of the true Protestant Religion, Our owne Royall Person and just Rights, the Lawes of the Land, the Liberties and Properties of Our Subjects, and Priviledges of Parliament, for resistance of the present Invasion of the *Scots*, and for suppression of this their horrid *Rebellion* raised against Us; The charge whereof is so vast, that We are no wayes able (Our own Revenues and Customes being detained from Us, and by these *Rebells* imployed for the maintenance of those Forces which they have raised against Us,) to defray the same without the assistance of Our good Subjects: And whereas at a Councell of Warre held at *Oxford* the 28th day of *December* last past, It was represented unto Us by the Lords, and other of Our said Councell then present, That the *Rebells* at *London*, and other parts of this Kingdom in their power, (to maintain and continue their horrid, and barbarous *Rebellion*) had laid an *Excise* upon severall Wares and Commodities, whereby they raise great summes of money for the payment of their *Rebellious* Forces, and thereby encourage and keep them together. And it was therefore by the generall Consent and desire of the principall Officers of Our Army thought most necessary, that

We should be praid speedily to lay an Excise upon wares and Commodities in the like nature, whereby Monyes might be leavyed for the payment of Our Armies raised for Our own defence and reducing Our Subjects to their due obedience. And although upon due consideration had by Us thereon, We found Our Selfe necessitated to take some speedy course for raising of monies for thole purposes, yet We thought fit to forbear putting the said advice in execution, till We had communicaed the same to the Lords & Commons of Parliament Assembled at *Oxford*, by vertue of Our Proclamation, to the end that with their advice the said Excise might with most indifferency and ease to Our People be rated and leavyed; And the said Lords and Commons, taking into their serious considerations the meanes how to support and maintaine Our Armies, could not find any way whereby that charge might be so equally borne by Our Subjects, as by laying an Excise upon sundry Wares and Commodities for that purpose, yet withall humbly desired that We would not continue the said Excise for any longer time then during the present necessity, and whilst the Rebels at *London* continue the Excise laid by them, that We would determine the Ex-

cise laid whensoever We should be thereunto desired by the said Lords and Commons, and ease Our People of the Contribution now paid in part or in whole, so soon as by this way We should have money sufficient to maintaine Our said Armies. And We would be pleased gratiouſly to declare, That the setting and laying the said Excise is done merely for necessity, and that the monies raised thereby shall be employed onely for payment and maintenance of Our Armies, and shall be disposed from time to time in such sort as shall be advised by the said Lords and Commons, or such as they nominate, and no otherwise; and that We would declare and also promise Our Royall assent to enact, whereby it may be declared and enacted in a full and free convention of Parliament, that Our doings therein shall not be drawen into President or Example in time to come, nor be made use of, mentioned or urged as a president; nor any other advantage taken thereon in prejudice of the Right and Property of the Subjects for the future. And lastly, that the said Excise might be set, ordered and governed in such sort and by such Instructions as should be approved or appointed by the said Lords and Commons and not otherwise. Know ye therefore, that in
 pursuance

purfuance of the faid defires, all which We doe approve & thereunto give Our full promife and Conſent, We have ordered and appointed, and by theſe preſents doe order and appoint that an Excife ſhall be laid and ſet; And We doe by theſe preſents lay and ſet an Excife upon the ſeverall Wares and commodities contained in the Schedule to theſe preſents annexed, according to the ſeverall and reſpective rates and values therein limited and ſet down to be paid, and the ſame to be raiſed, leavyed, paid and diſpoſed in ſuch ſort and manner as in the ſaid Schedule is contained and according to the Articles and Inſtructions thereto adjoyned, and for the due execution hereof, We have nominated, appointed and authorized, and by theſe preſents do nominate, appoint and authorize you to be Our Commiſſioners within Our

for the leavying, collecting and gathering the ſaid Excife according to the rates and values ſet down and expreſſed in the ſaid Schedule, and according to the articles and inſtructions therewithall now ſent, or hereafter to be ſent, by the approbation of the ſaid Lords and Commons, or ſuch as they ſhall authorize for that purpoſe, and not otherwiſe. And We by theſe preſents give full pow-

er and authority unto you Our said Commissioners, or the greater number of you, in writing under your hands and Seales from time to time to nominate, make and appoint, such and so many Substitutes or Deputies within Our said County and City, Townes Corporate, Divisions, or other part or parts of Our said County and City, as to you or the greater number of you shall seem fit and convenient; And also in like manner to name, make and appoint such and so many Registers, Clerks, Searchers, Collectors, and other inferiour Officers and Ministers for the better execution of the said Service, as to you, or the greater number of you, shall seem meet; All which are to be cholen and governed as is directed in the Instructions hereunto annexed. And Our further Will and Pleasure is, That you Our said Commissioners, or any of you, shall not intermeddle or doe any thing in the premisses by the vertue of these presents, untill such time as you and every of you shall take the Oath in the said Instructions set downe for the due execution of that Office before two Justices of the Peace, or more of Our said which
Oath We doe hereby give full power and authority unto the Justices of the Peace of Our said

or

or any two or more of them to give and administer unto you and every of you, by vertue of these presents, without further or other Warrant in that behalfe; and after such time as you Our said Commissioners have taken the said Oath, We doe hereby give full power to you, or the greater number of you, to give and administer the like Oath to all and every such Substitutes and Deputies as you shall make and appoint as aforesaid, before they or any of them doe intermedle in the execution of the said premisses. And We doe likewise by these presents, give full power and Authority to you Our said Commissioners, or any two or more of you, and also to such Substitutes or Deputies as you shall make and appoynt in manner aforesaid, or any two or more of them, from time to time to administer the severall Oathes in the said Instructions specially mentioned, to all and every such Person and Persons as are therein, and thereby named and appoynted to take the same in such sort, as in the said Instructions is expressed; and further that you our said Commissioners, or any one of you, and also the said Substitutes and Deputies, or any one of them, shall and may from time to time, give and administer an Oath upon the holy Evangelists

Evangelists to all such persons and witnesses as may or will informe or discover unto you any deceipt or other abuse touching the said Excise, contrary to the said Instructions, or any of them. And We doe further signifie and declare to all our good Subjects, that the said Excise, by vertue of these presents to be laid and imposed upon the severall wares and Commodities in the said Shedule mentioned, is to be paid and shall continue untill the Feast of the Annunciation of Our blessed Lady *S. Mary* the Virgine; which shall be in the yeare of Our Lord one thousand six hundred forty and five, in case that the Excise laid by the Rebels at *London* shall so long continue; and that the same shall be determined before that time, if We shall be advised by the said Lords and Commons sooner to lay down the same. In Witnesse whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patents. Witnesse our selfe at *Oxford*.

F I N I S.